

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 IO-06 EUR-08 L-01 H-01  
NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-SFPATRICK:DFF/MPH  
APPROVED BY AF- WESCHAUFLE  
S/S-LREDDY  
S-WTWADELL

-----170136Z 071311 /72-62

O 170040Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058997

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, NI, PSDC

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM SECRETARY VANCE TO EXTAFF COMMISSIONER  
GARBA

REF: STATE 032359

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED MARCH 11 FROM  
THE SECRETARY TO GARBA, ORIGINAL OF WHICH DEPARTMENT  
POUCHING TO EMBASSY FOR DELIVERY TO MEA.

2. QUOTE DEAR MR. COMMISSIONER:

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I APPRECIATED YOUR THOUGHTFUL MESSAGE UPON MY ASSUMPTION  
OF OFFICE WHICH AMBASSADOR SANU DELIVERED TO ME ON FEBRUARY  
10. AS I TOLD AMBASSADOR SANU DURING OUR MEETING AND AS  
PRESIDENT CARTER AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAVE EXPRESSED TO  
HIS EXCELLENCY LT. GENERAL OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, THE UNITED  
STATES GOVERNMENT PLACES THE HIGHEST PRIORITY ON CONTINUING

AND EXTENDING THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.  
WE GREATLY VALUE NIGERIA'S FRIENDSHIP AND SHALL CONTINUE  
TO WELCOME THE ADVICE OF ITS LEADERS.

3. QUOTE THE UNITED STATES REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE SEARCH  
FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS OF NAMIBIA AND  
ZIMBABWE. IN LIGHT OF THIS COMMITMENT, WE REGARDED IAN  
SMITH'S JANUARY 24 STATEMENT REJECTING THE LATEST BRITISH  
PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTING THE ALTERNATIVE OF AN "INTERNAL  
SOLUTION" WITH GREAT CONCERN. THE UNITED STATES RESPONDED  
RAPIDLY TO IMPRESS UPON SMITH OUR OPPOSITION TO HIS POSI-  
TION. WE HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THAT WE BELIEVE THE BRITISH  
PROPOSALS CONTINUE TO BE A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION AND THAT  
WE WOULD IN NO WAY SUPPORT SMITH'S INTERNAL SOLUTION AS IT  
WILL NOT BRING AN END TO THE WAR AND COULD WELL PROVOKE  
INTERNAL STRIFE. WE HAVE TAKEN OTHER MEASURES TO EMPHA-  
SIZE OUR OPPOSITION TO THE INTERNAL SOLUTION AND TO POINT  
OUT TO SMITH HE CAN COUNT ON NOTHING SHORT OF AMERICAN OP-  
POSITION AS LONG AS HE RESISTS SERIOUS NEGOTIATION.

4. QUOTE ON FEBRUARY 10 I TESTIFIED BEFORE A SENATE SUB-  
COMMITTEE CONSIDERING THE REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT  
AND REITERATED THAT THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES SHOULD  
UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN THEY  
COUNT ON ANY FORM OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE IN THEIR EFFORT  
TO PREVENT MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA OR TO ENTER INTO  
NEGOTIATIONS WHICH EXCLUDE LEADERS OF NATIONALIST MOVE-  
MENTS." I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S  
ACTIVE ROLE REGARDING THIS LEGISLATION HAS GREATLY IN-  
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CREASED THE CHANCES FOR REPEAL IN THE CONGRESS.

5. QUOTE WITH RESPECT TO NAMIBIA, WE WILL NOT ABANDON OUR  
EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION. WE CONTINUE TO STAND READY TO  
USE OUR GOOD OFFICES TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT  
AND HOPE THAT YOU CAN ALSO USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO THAT END.

6. QUOTE AS YOU KNOW, DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY WE  
HAD TWO SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH BRITISH DELEGATIONS IN  
WASHINGTON TO ASSESS THE RHODESIAN SITUATION AND DEVELOP  
FURTHER COURSES OF ACTION. FOLLOWING THOSE MEETINGS,  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS SCHAUFLE  
AND THE LEADER OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION, DEPUTY UNDER  
SECRETARY OF STATE, SIR ANTHONY DUFF, MET WITH SOUTH  
AFRICAN AMBASSADOR BOTHA TO REVIEW THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM.  
YOU HAVE ALREADY HAD A REPORT ON THAT CONVERSATION FROM  
AMBASSADOR EASUM. AS THESE CONSULTATIONS PROCEED WE WANT  
TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH YOU TO INFORM YOU OF OUR

THINKING AND TO SEEK THE BENEFIT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S EXPERIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEM. SINCERELY,  
CYRUS VANCE.

HIS EXCELLENCY  
BRIG. JOSEPH N. GARBA,  
COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF NIGERIA,  
LAGOS. UNQUOTE.  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
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**Subject:** LETTER FROM SECRETARY VANCE TO EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PFOR, PSDC, NI, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (GARBA, JOSEPH N)  
**To:** LAGOS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009